40 Years and Still Going Strong

What it takes to have a successful career in teaching and feel passionate about what you do
My Illustrious and (very) long career in teaching

1975-1995 - Private Schools
1995-present - St. Paul Public Schools
The Joy of Teaching
Why Teach?
Because you will learn so much more from your students than you could ever teach them

Michele Costello
Students are our best teachers
Costello’s Culturally Responsive Suggestions

1. Learn to differentiate

2. Be mindful of all the cultural experience in your classroom—
   Ask them about their culture

3. Think of many ways to make your lesson engaging, and one that caters to all learning styles

4. Use technology effectively

5. Be as respectful of them as learners as you expect them to be of you.
Michele’s Missive:

1. Get enough sleep-8:00 bedtime will be the new normal
2. “Do what you love and you’ll love what you do”
3. Don’t waste time on anger-you’ll get stressed, but the students won’t change
4. Make all breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the week on the weekend
5. Pack enough to keep you going - more than you think!
6. Go to the bathroom for God’s sake
7. Do not gossip with your peers about your peers or students
8. Have fun but remember that you’re the Boss!
9. SARCASM is DEADLY!
10. Know your students and their lives
Continued.....

11. Plan on spending the $500 tax deductible teacher expenditure
12. Take advantage of anything free
13. Make connections with every student you have
14. Go to extracurricular activities
15. Make phone calls home
16. Travel during break to give yourself a mental break and bring back experience to the classroom
17. Put money away for retirement
18. Do not ever be friends with any student on social media until they have turned 18 and have graduated. Ever.
19. Big brother is watching! Do not say or do anything you wouldn’t say or do in front of your principal or the students’ guardians
20. Teaching is a noble and incredibly rewarding adventure!